Year	Line Kilometre (LKM)	Area Covered
2005-06	12765	Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
2006-07	Nil	Nil
2007-08	Nil	Nil

Based on the results of different surveys, 6 exploration blocks were carved out and awarded in Ganga Basin under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy held so far. Till date, about 1495 LKM of 2D seismic, 37,746 LKM Aeromagnetic survey have been carried out and 1 exploratory well has been drilled in these blocks by the Operators. Further exploration activities have been carried out as per work programme envisaged in Production Sharing Contracts. No reserve has been established so far.

Gas pipeline to Kashmir

3060. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether he had recently announced that a gas pipeline to Kashmir is on the cards;

if so, the details thereof; and

by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Application for new gas connection

306;. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

whether Government has received any complaints that certain dealers of LPG are not accepting applications for new gas connections;,

if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

the steps taken by Government against such dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers. However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that as on 01.04.2008, there is a waiting list of 25077 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country. The waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15.05.2008.

IOC has detected a case of not accepting application for new gas connection by their LPG distributorship in Delhi in the month of April, 2007. Action against the erring distributorship was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Availability of Ethanol and Jatropha

†3062. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that required quantity of both Ethanol and Jatropha (Ratanjot) to be mixed with petrol and diesel to be sold to the consumer is available in the country;

if so, the details thereof;

the procurement price of both these products for oil companies;

whether this mixture affects the prices of petrol and diesel; and

if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As against industry's requirement of 180 crore litres of ethanol for 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol programme for a period of three years, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been able to contract 140.4 crore litres and they have so far procured 29.5 crore litres under the programme (as on 31.3.08). However, the levies/taxes on ethanol imposed in certain States has affected procurement of ethanol in those States as it becomes commercially unviable.

Presently, the procurement price of ethanol ex-factory ranges form Rs. 17250.15 per kl to Rs. 21500 per kl and that of bio-diesel is Rs. 26.50 per litre.

and (e) No. The selling price of ethanol blended petrol is the same as that of petrol. The selling price of bio-diesel is also proposed to be at the same level as that of diesel. However, marketing of bio-diesel is yet to commence.

Crude import

3063. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether the prices of Indian basket of crude has recently crossed the US $ 100 mark;

whether the indigenous production of crude and gas has slackened due to nonavailability of rigs required for the on-going block explorations; and

what other measures are being taken to restrict the quantum of crude imports into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The per barrel price of Indian basket of crude has crossed the US $100 mark on 10th March, 2008. In the month of March, 2008, the average price of Indian Basket of crude was US $ 99.76/- bbl.

† **Original** notice of the question was received in Hindi.